



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 699

January Session, 2007

House Bill No. 6680

House of Representatives, May 2, 2007

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. MERRILL of the 54th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT PROVIDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN MILITARY SPOUSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 31-236 of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2007*):

4 (2) (A) If, in the opinion of the administrator, the individual has left
5 suitable work voluntarily and without good cause attributable to the
6 employer, until such individual has earned at least ten times such
7 individual's benefit rate, provided whenever an individual voluntarily
8 leaves part-time employment under conditions that would render the
9 individual ineligible for benefits, such individual's ineligibility shall be
10 limited as provided in subsection (b) of this section, if applicable, and
11 provided further, no individual shall be ineligible for benefits if the
12 individual leaves suitable work (i) for good cause attributable to the
13 employer, including leaving as a result of changes in conditions
14 created by the individual's employer, (ii) to care for a seriously ill

15 spouse or child, or parent domiciled with the individual, provided
16 such illness is documented by a licensed physician, (iii) due to the
17 discontinuance of transportation, other than the individual's
18 personally owned vehicle, used to get to and from work, provided no
19 reasonable alternative transportation is available, [or] (iv) to protect
20 the individual or a child domiciled with the individual from becoming
21 or remaining a victim of domestic violence, as defined in section 17b-
22 112a, provided such individual has made reasonable efforts to
23 preserve the employment, but the employer's account shall not at any
24 time be charged with respect to any voluntary leaving that falls under
25 subparagraph (A)(iv) of this subdivision, or (v) to accompany a spouse
26 who is on active duty with the armed forces of the United States and is
27 required to relocate by the armed forces, but the employer's account
28 shall not at any time be charged with respect to any voluntary leaving
29 that falls under subparagraph (A)(v) of this subdivision; or (B) if, in the
30 opinion of the administrator, the individual has been discharged or
31 suspended for felonious conduct, conduct constituting larceny of
32 property or service, the value of which exceeds twenty-five dollars, or
33 larceny of currency, regardless of the value of such currency, wilful
34 misconduct in the course of the individual's employment, or
35 participation in an illegal strike, as determined by state or federal laws
36 or regulations, until such individual has earned at least ten times the
37 individual's benefit rate; provided an individual who (i) while on
38 layoff from regular work, accepts other employment and leaves such
39 other employment when recalled by the individual's former employer,
40 (ii) leaves work that is outside the individual's regular apprenticeable
41 trade to return to work in the individual's regular apprenticeable trade,
42 (iii) has left work solely by reason of governmental regulation or
43 statute, or (iv) leaves part-time work to accept full-time work, shall not
44 be ineligible on account of such leaving and the employer's account
45 shall not at any time be charged with respect to such separation, unless
46 such employer has elected payments in lieu of contributions.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2007</i>	31-236(a)(2)
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LAB *Joint Favorable C/R*

APP

APP *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Labor Dept.	Unemployment Compensation Fund - Cost	\$2.9 - \$3.9 million	\$2.9 - \$3.9 million

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill provides unemployment compensation benefits to an individual who leaves suitable work to accompany a spouse who is on active duty with the armed forces of the United States and is required to relocate by the armed forces.

The bill could result in a significant cost to the Department of Labor's Unemployment Compensation Fund of approximately \$2.9 to \$3.9 million. The cost of \$2.9 million assumes 75% of 810 potentially eligible individuals file claims and receive an average weekly benefit rate of \$290 for an average of 16.6 weeks. The cost of \$3.9 million assumes 100% of 810 potentially eligible individuals file claims and receive an average weekly benefit rate of \$290 for an average of 16.6 weeks.

Funding in the amount of \$350,000 is included in both FY 08 and FY 09 in sHB 7077, the Appropriations Act, as favorably reported by the Appropriations Committee, for unemployment benefits for certain military spouses.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**HB 6680*****AN ACT PROVIDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN MILITARY SPOUSES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill makes eligible for unemployment compensation benefits an employee who voluntarily leaves his or her job to accompany a spouse who is on active duty with the United States armed forces and required to relocate because of such duty. It establishes that an employer's unemployment taxes will not be directly affected by an employee who files a claim under the bill's provisions.

By law, in most cases an employee who voluntarily leaves work through no fault of the employer is not eligible for unemployment compensation. Some exceptions to this include when an employee leaves a job to (1) care for a seriously ill child, spouse, or parent or (2) protect himself or herself or a child living with the employee from continued or threatened domestic violence.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2007

COMMITTEE ACTION

Labor and Public Employees Committee

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 10 Nay 0 (03/13/2007)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 48 Nay 0 (04/19/2007)